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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Discharge of North Korean Officials

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1. Pressure from Korean and Chinese elements in Manchuria is resulting in the removal of officials from North Korean political and government assignments. The background of this pressure is as follows: When the Chinese Communists advanced into Manchuria in October 1945, with the Korean Volunteer Army, they strengthened their control of the Korean settled areas, particularly Chientao Province, by enlisting local Korean Communists to aid them in liquidating Manchukuo officials and Korean and Chinese landlords. Koreans in Manchuria were urged to join the Chinese Communist Party, and many joined who had not previously been Communist. In the subsequent communizing program, the Chinese used Korean Communists to dispose of Korean landlords, and many Koreans gained great influence and power in Manchuria.
2. As the Chinese learned the short Communist background of many of their Manchurian workers, however, they began to force them out of the Chinese Communist Party. The policy was to remove all Koreans who had not been Communists before the Japanese surrender from all official positions in both Manchuria and North Korea. Many of the Korean post-war Communists who had returned from Manchuria to North Korea and obtained government positions have been subjected to pressure from the Chinese since July 1946. Persistent demands for their dismissal have been made by WENG Wen-t'ao (魏文涛), political commissioner of the Yenkuo (延吉)* Special Representative's Office of the Kirin provincial government.
3. In consequence, North Korean officials who once belonged to the Chinese Communist Party have in many cases been removed from their positions.** Among those dismissed are:
 - a. AN Si-ung (安時雄), aged 47, a native of Onsong (130-00, 42-55), North Hamgyong Province, who was imprisoned for three years in connection with a Communist incident in North Hamgyong during the war but who did not join the Chinese Communist Party until after the Japanese surrender. He lives in North Hamgyong but has no regular residence or employment.

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- b. CHI Hi-kyōm (池德業), aged 48, a native of Kyōngsōng (129-40, 41-40) County, North Hamgyong Province. He was imprisoned for seven years because of a Communist incident in Chientao, joined the CCP after the war, and became chairman of the Democratic League (民主同盟) in Yenkuo. He later returned to North Korea and obtained a government post in Pyongyang. He was expelled from the CCP and lost his job later on; his present location is unknown.
- c. KANG Tong-chu (姜東柱), aged 45, born in Kirin Province and graduate of a middle school there, was imprisoned for five years because of the 30 May Incident. A building contractor before the war, he joined the CCP after the Japanese surrender. He was appointed chairman of the Kirin Provincial Committee for control of commerce and industry, in which capacity he was responsible for the death of more than five thousand Chinese and Koreans. Upon returning to North Korea, he was employed as a member of the Youth Friendship Party in Hoeryong (129-45, 42-25); he has no fixed residence in North Korea.
- d. PAE Tong-kon (裴東健), aged 40, a native of Kyongsong, North Hamgyong Province, was imprisoned in So Tae Mun (蘇太門) Prison for ten years for his leadership of the 30 May Incident. He joined the CCP immediately after the end of the war. In 1947, he was dismissed from his position of chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial Consumers' Cooperative Society, ostensibly for embezzlement, but actually because he was in disfavor with the party. He returned to Chientao, where he is now a farmer.
- e. PAK Chae-ha (朴載夏), joined the Chinese Communist Party immediately after the war and became vice principal of the Political and Military University of Yenkuo, then principal of the Pyongyang Economics College. In April 1948, he was arrested and removed by the Peace Preservation Bureau (? State Security Bureau ?) and has not been heard of since.
- f. YIM Kye-hak (林啓澤), after the war, he was deputy mayor of Lungchingsun (129-26, 42-47) and chairman of the Yenkuo Liquidation Committee, then, in March 1947, chief of the Pyongyang National Library. From this post he was discharged in October 1947 and has been unemployed since; he lives in Lungchingsun.

4. However, one prominent North Korean member of the Chinese Communist Party who joined immediately after the war has been able to maintain his position as representative of the Korean Communist Party members in Manchuria and as their liaison officer with the North Korean government at Pyongyang. He is CH'OE Mun-ho (崔文浩), aged 55, a native of Onsong; his official post is on the Racial Committee (民族委員) at Yenchi (129-31, 42-55).

* [REDACTED] Yenkuo is unidentified. It is believed that Yenp'en may be meant.

** [REDACTED] The actual reason for the removal of Koreans from office by Chinese Communist pressure is very doubtful. The forcing out of post-war Communists may be part of the general international purge of persons whose ideological devotion to the party is doubtful and of old-time Communists who may have become tainted with nationalism or have incurred party suspicion of their loyalty or usefulness. It is possible also that the CCP wishes to disassociate itself from Koreans whose activities in the immediate postwar period will not bear too close scrutiny and from persons whose membership in the party was a matter of expediency or opportunism, as well as from non-Chinese elements.

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